

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115686
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 H-02 ITC-01 STR-07 COME-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 JUSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /052 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:H A COCHRAN:EH
APPROVED BY EA/J: N PLATT
EB/OT/TA:J CUNNINGHAM
H:D KENNEY

-----033935 060819Z /21

R 060007Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 115686

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED JAPANESE MONOPSONISTIC PRACTICES IN THE
"ELVER" TRADE

1. DEPT RECEIVED FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SENATOR JESSE
HELMS FOR AMB. MANSFIELD AFTER AMB HAD DEPARTED WASH.
2. "IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT MEMBERS OF THE
JAPANESE EEL CULTURE ASSOCIATION OF TOKYO HAVE SUSPENDED
ALL PURCHASES OF BABY EELS, "ELVERS", IN A BLATANT ATTEMPT
TO COERCE PRICE REDUCTIONS.

"AT STAKE ARE THE JOBS OF HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN FISHERMEN
WHO HAVE WORKED IN GOOD FAITH FOR JAPANESE PURCHASERS IN
PROVIDING ELVERS AT PRICES FAR BELOW THOSE NORMALLY
OBTAINABLE. THUS, IT APPEARS THAT TACIT COMMITMENTS OF
LONG STANDING HAVE BEEN BROKEN.

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"YOUR COMMITMENT TO PURCHASES OF U.S. GOODS IS WELCOME
NEWS. I URGE YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO THIS UNFAIR
PRACTICE BY JAPANESE ELVER BUYERS."

3. FYI. WE UNDERSTAND ELVERS INDUSTRY CONSISTS OF ABOUT
10-12 FIRMS EMPLOYING ABOUT 1200 PEOPLE ON EAST COAST.

ANNUAL EXPORTS TO JAPAN AMOUNT TO ABOUT 10 METRIC TONS,
AT \$100 PER KILO. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Litigation Codes:
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